



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

July 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: *Statewide Wolf Management Status Update*

Presented by: *Cory Mosby*

Position/Title: *Large Carnivore Program Coordinator*

Agenda Item No.: *8*

Bureau Chief Approval: *SR*

Background:

In 1995-1996, gray wolves were released in central ID by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The subsequent biological recovery of this species and their management have been topics of great interest to a varied audience ever since. Since the final federal delisting in 2011, wolves in Idaho have been managed as a big game animal by IDFG. In 2023, the Idaho Gray Wolf Management Plan 2023-2028 was adopted by the Commission. This plan set an objective of reducing and then maintaining the statewide wolf population fluctuating around an average of 500 wolves and set clear guidelines to minimize livestock conflict and address wolf predation in areas where predation may be impacting target ungulate populations.

This presentation serves as an annual status update for the Commission on progress toward the goals outlined in the management plan and will include the most recent (2025) statewide population estimate, harvest trends by method and region, trends in livestock depredations, and an overview of how external policies are impacting wolf management.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission is charged with administering wildlife policy, and through the Department, is responsible for preserving, protecting, perpetuating and managing the state's wildlife (Idaho Code 36-103). The Idaho Gray Wolf Management Plan 2023-2028 outlines the Commission's management intent for gray wolves in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The public is keenly interested in information on wolves, including population size and the effect wolves have on prey species and livestock. The Commission and the Department receive input from the public on wolves and wolf management throughout the year via social media, email, phone calls, public meetings and hearings, and other events. Public will also have the opportunity to comment on this topic at the July Commission public hearing.

Justification:

The information presented will help Commissioners as they respond to requests, recommendations, or other input from the public and will aid staff in the assessment of wolf population status and the effectiveness of management actions.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – Informational only.